

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
GAINSBOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1971

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Dr. L. K. Cordeaux

Vice-Chairman - Rev. G. Bottomley

Councillors: Mrs. J. M. Barley
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A. E. Robinson
E. R. Selby

Medical Officer of Health

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Deputy Medical Officer of Health

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Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

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Assistant Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

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other Foods

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The Cedars,
Bigby Road,
Brigg.

September, 1972.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The vital statistics for our district for the year 1971 are unusually good. Estimated mid-year populations become increasingly inaccurate the more remote they are from the last census. The apparent drop in population from 1970 to 1971 is due to the correction of the accumulated error since the 1966 sample census provided a check on the real figure. Despite being calculated on a smaller base, which would tend to make rates higher the crude and corrected death rates have fallen. As usual they are lower than those for England and Wales. Rates based on small numbers are liable to wide fluctuations as a result of chance. Our indices of perinatal and infant mortality, being based on a small number of births are particularly prone to chance variation. Both the excessively high figures for 1970 and the abnormally low ones for 1971 were probably due largely to chance.

The birth rate of 19.2 although lower than that for the previous year was still higher than one would like. As in previous years our district made a contribution of over a hundred extra people to the worlds overpopulation problem. We know from the projections made by the World Health Organisation and from the studies carried out at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that mankind is facing a crisis of excessive population, depletion of non-renewable resources and of environmental deterioration which if unchecked will seriously affect living conditions and standards within a generation. If your children and grandchildren are to enjoy reasonable standards we must strive hard to avert this threat, and endeavour to reduce the number of births to match the number of deaths as soon as possible. Young parents of course do not usually consider the world situation before deciding how many children to have. They either have children because they want them, for emotional (rather than rational) reasons, or because they fail to take effective contraceptive precautions. Many young people already appreciate that if they have a large family their standards of living will fall and consequently are now choosing to limit their families. It has been calculated that if only those children were born whose parents had planned them

the population of England and Wales would already have stabilised. Whether voluntary contraception alone will in fact prove sufficient to achieve population stability remains to be seen, but we must clearly hope that it will, and do our utmost to ensure that every girl and woman in the area knows about the services provided in this and adjacent areas jointly by the Family Planning Association and the Lindsey County Council.

So far as our district is concerned of course the population has fallen from 13,030 in 1961 to 12,600 in 1971 despite our annual surplus of births over deaths. This phenomenon of migratory drift of population from country to town is also part of a world wide problem. It is due almost certainly to the better opportunities for employment in manufacuring or service industries available in towns and to the reduction of employment opportunities in agriculture due to mechanisation. It continues, surprisingly, despite the fact that there is substantial unemployment in the towns, and despite the fact that statistics show that rural life is healthier than urban life. It is clear from the statistics that the annual rate of drift from our district has been about 150 persons per annum. The 1,500 who left during the past decade represents 12 per cent of our total population!

Will this trend continue? This is a question of some importance, because houses built today will be expected to provide accommodation for many years to come. While there is a need for more fit houses to accommodate the growing population of this country there is little point in providing them in areas where people do not wish to live. It is for this reason that, on Mr. Archers advice, you have been restricting the rate of house building and relied largely upon the re-letting of existing houses to accommodate families displaced by slum clearance. On the basis of recent trends this policy is undoubtedly correct. It should however be kept under review. A major determinant of population distribution is the adequacy of communications. One of the consequences of the building of the Humber Bridge will be the need to improve the trunk road network serving the area, and this will in turn affect the accessibility of parts of our district. Whether it will do so in such a way as to reverse the outward migratory trend, or whether the trend will become more marked as developing industry on the Humber Bank affords employment opportunity and attracts people from our area is a question which only time will answer.

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A consequence of our slow rate of house building, wise though this clearly is, is that slum clearance rates are also slow. During 1971 you made 30 demolition orders and a closing order. Seventeen houses subject to order were demolished and a further 8 not subject to order were demolished voluntarily. Clearly at this rate it would take almost another decade to deal with all the remaining 335 unfit houses, if this were the only influence. Fortunately it is not. Some sub-standard houses are sufficiently sound structurally to be capable of improvement, with grant aid, up to the recognised standard. There has been a heartening increase in the number of houses so improved. Not only is improvement of existing houses more economic and less wasteful of resources than demolition and new building, but it has the added virtue of preserving the character of our villages. From 1970 to 1971 the number of houses improved by standard grant rose from 9 to 27, and the number improved with the aid of discretionary grant rose from 5 to 24.

A further increase in rate of house improvement may be expected in 1972 when the effect of the temporary increase in the size of grant from 50 per cent to 75 per cent shows its effect. This offer only applies to work carried out before mid 1974, and the time limit must be a strong incentive to owners of property to bring their schemes forward before the rate reverts to 50 per cent again. Another factor encouraging the improvement of houses is the councils rapid progress in sewerage villages. It is clearly good sense, when a village is provided with a new sewerage scheme for the owners of houses to put in full modern amenities rather than merely substitute a W.C. for the pail closet in the back yard. The sewerage of six villages during 1971 was a considerable achievement which will add greatly to the quality of life there.

The quality of the public water supplies to the area was as usual excellent. While its hardness may impede washing with soap and fur up kettles there is strong evidence that it has a beneficial effect upon health.

Mortality from cardiovascular and other causes is lower in hard than soft water areas. Apart therefore from its low fluoride content, which is below that necessary for the growth of healthy teeth, our public water supply was beyond reproach. There are however still a few properties supplied from private wells. These are sampled periodically, as they are not chlorinated and there is always risk of pollution.

Your public health inspectors also make regular checks on food hygiene in shops. None of the five cases of food poisoning notified during the year was traced to any error of food handling at shops in our area. Pathogens were isolated from 3 of the 5 cases, and all were due to salmonella typhimurium. One of them had acquired the infection in Scotland. The remaining two probably acquired it from foodstuffs prepared in a neighbouring town.

One incident which occurred during the year and affected part of our district merits mention although its cause was in another area and its remedy was the responsibility of the river authority. It illustrates a hazard of our time and shows the need for constant vigilance. I refer to the pollution of the River Till with the agricultural chemical "dinoseb" following a spillage at industrial premises. This caused the death of many fishes, birds and other animals.

It occurred at a time of year when children do not play in the water, but in summer such an incident could have ~~serious~~ consequences, for this substance shares with a few other agricultural chemicals the capability of entering the body through the intact skin in sufficient amount to endanger life.

If hazard to health is to be avoided the greatest care will have to be exercised in the handling of toxic agricultural chemicals and in particular with the washing out and disposal of containers.

I am indebted to both Mr. Archer and to Mr. Clixby for their willing help throughout the year and for their work details of which have been tabulated in the latter pages of this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. S. Rat', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Mid-year population	13,190	13,250	12,600
Live Births	251	279	242
Stillbirths	3	1	1
Infant deaths under 4 weeks of age	1	9	2
Total Deaths	150	151	140

	<u>Legitimate</u>			<u>Illegitimate</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Live Births	117	116	233	4	5	9	242
Stillbirths	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Infant deaths under 1 year	2	-	2	-	-	-	2
Infant deaths under 4 weeks	2	-	2	-	-	-	2
Infant deaths under 1 week	2	-	2	-	-	-	2

	<u>Gainsborough R.D.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Crude Birth Rate	21.1	19.2
Corrected Birth Rate *	21.1	19.2
Stillbirth Rate	4.0	4.0
Infant Mortality Rate	36.0	8.0
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate	34.0	9.0
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate	71.0	---
Neonatal Mortality Rate	32.0	8.0
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	32.0	8.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	36.0	12.0
Illegitimacy Rate	5.0	4.0
Crude Death Rate	11.4	11.1
Corrected Death Rate *	10.6	10.3

* These corrections take account of the different proportions of old and young people in the area, and make the resulting rate comparable with that for England and Wales. Thus, a resort to which old people retire would have a high crude rate but low comparability factor would correct the false impression that this was an unhealthy area. The comparability factor for births in this district is 1.00 and .93 for deaths.

Causes of Death in the District during the year 1971

Causes of Death	0-	1-	15-	25-	45-	65+	Total	
							M	F
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	-	-	1	1	7	6	3
Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Anaemias	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	6	30	19	17
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	1	13	4	10
Cerebrovascular Disease	-	-	-	-	1	23	8	16
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	9	2	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1
Peptic Ulcer	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-
All Other Accidents	-	1	-	-	1	2	2	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-
All Other External Causes	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL:	2	3	2	2	15	116	66	74

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

BY AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	25+	A.U.	Total
Measles	3	2	2	-	8	19	4	-	-	38
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	5
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	5
Dysentery	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Meningitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
TOTAL:	7	4	2	-	9	22	6	5	-	55

WATER SUPPLY

Reports on samples of water taken by the Lincoln and District Water Board

(1) Lea Road No. 2 Borehole

Chemical Analysis in mg./l.

Appearance - Clear and Bright

Colour (°Hazen)	2	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	0.3
Odour and Taste	Normal	Conductivity at 20° (Recip. Megohms)	607
Total Dissolved Solids (180°)	455	pH	7.66
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	344	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	180
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	164	Calcium Hardness as CaCO ₃	-
Magnesium Hardness as CaCO ₃	-	Free Carbon Dioxide as CO ₂	7.0
Chloride as Cl	20.5	Fluoride as F	0.05
Phosphate as PO ₄	-	Silica as SiO ₂	-
Sulphate as SO ₄	-		
Free Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	0.01	Albuminoid Nitrogen as N	0.02
Nitrate Nitrogen as N	0.5	Nitrite Nitrogen as N	0.0025
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hour at 27°)			0.64
Iron as Fe	-	Manganese as Mn	-
Potassium as K	-	Sodium as Na	-
Heavy Metals (copper, lead and zinc)		Lead =	0.025
Other parameters	-		

(2) Glenthams Pumping Station

Chemical Analysis in mg./l.

Appearance - Clear and Bright

Colour (^o Hazen)	2	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	0.3
Odour and Taste	Normal	Conductivity at 20 ^o (Recip. Megohms)	945
Total Dissolved Solids (180 ^o)	605	pH	7.20
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	464	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	282
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	182	Calcium Hardness as CaCO ₃	-
Magnesium Hardness as CaCO ₃	-	Free Carbon Dioxide as as CO ₂	35.0
Chloride as Cl	37.5	Fluoride as F	0.10
Phosphate as PO ₄	-	Silica as SiO ₂	-
Sulphate as SO ₄	-		
Free Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N	0.065	Albuminoid Nitrogen as N	0.065
Nitrate Nitrogen as N	0.5	Nitrite Nitrogen as N	0.0135
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hour at 27 ^o)			Nil
Iron as Fe	-	Manganese as Mn	-
Potassium as K	-	Sodium as Na	-
Heavy metals (copper, lead and zinc)		Lead =	0.03
Other Parameters	-		

Bacteriological Examination

244 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from pumping stations serving the area. Of these, only eight were reported as having coliforms present.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, FOR 1971

HOUSING

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in the district	4,788
Total number of new houses erected during the year	108
(1) By the local authority	16
(2) By other local authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	92
(4) Number allocated for replacing houses subject to Demolition Orders or otherwise demolished	Nil
Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:	
(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	220
(2) Number of inspections made for the purpose	252
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	12
Action under statutory powers during the year:	
(1) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-	
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	Nil
(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts:-	
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
Number of certificates of disrepair issued	Nil

(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts:-	
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	30
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	17
Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	1
Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	Nil
Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and to which are still occupied except under the provisions of Section 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	20
Total number of dwelling-houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	8
Nissen Huts or similar hutments.	
Number still occupied	Nil
Estimated number of dwellings remaining to be dealt with under -	
(a) The Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 and 18	335
(b) The Housing Act, 1957, Section 42	Nil
Housing Acts - Overcrowding.	
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
Number of families dwelling therein	3
Number of persons dwelling therein	22

Housing Act, 1969.

Number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been made -

(a) Standard Grant (Section 8)	27
(b) Improvement Grant (Section 2)	36
(c) Special Grants (Section 13)	Nil

Number of dwellings subject to grant -

(a) Standard Grant	27
(b) Improvement Grant	24
(c) Special Grant (including dwellings in Improvement areas)	Nil

Number of declared General Improvement Areas None

Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Number of site licences	18
Total number of caravans permitted under such licences	717
Number of inspections during the year -	
(a) Sites	52
(b) Caravans	27
Number of contraventions remedied	16
Number of sites exempt from licence	Nil
Number of holiday chalets	26

Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of site licences	Nil
Number of individual licences	10
Total number of moveable dwellings permitted under such licences	10
Number of inspections during the year	(a) Sites Nil
	(b) Dwellings 5
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses:

Number in district	2
Number of inspections made	6
Number of contraventions found	1
Defects remedied	1

Ice Cream:

Number of manufacturers on the register	1
Number of premises licensed for the sale of ice cream	41
Number of inspections made	56
Number of contraventions found	4
Number of contraventions remedied	4
Number of samples taken	Nil

Meat Products:

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of meat products	12
Number of inspections made	24
Number of contraventions found	2
Number of contraventions remedied	2

Other Food Premises:

Number of other food premises	91
Number of inspections made	72
Number of contraventions found	2
Number of contraventions remedied	2

Unsound Food surrendered:-

73	loose fish fingers	38	loose beefburgers
38	loose fish cakes	2	plaice portions
9	9oz. battered fish fingers	10	cod in butter sauce
9	7oz. pastry	5	6oz. kipper fillets
4	pastry	2lb	loose sausage
3	8oz. beefburgers	1	bag fish portions
4	12oz. pies	2	7½oz. plaice fillets
3	16oz. chicken joints	2	7oz. cod steaks
2	8oz. beef	7	6½oz. sausage
3	5oz. pies	5	10oz. sausage
11	small pies	1	12oz. brussel sprouts
50	icepops	1	6oz. sweet-corn
6	4oz. beefburgers	120	assorted ices

Method of disposal of condemned food:

Buried on tip

other foods:

Buried on tip

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets:

Number of houses with pail closets	251
Number of houses with water closets	4,537
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets	61
The Council does not operate a pail closet emptying service	

Cesspools and Septic Tanks:

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed etc.	
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	140
The Council operates a cesspool/septic tank emptying service	
Number of vehicles in use for emptying pail closets and cesspools	1

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewerage arrangements have been improved:

New scheme completed for villages of Laughterton, Newton, Fenton, Kettlethorpe, Grayingham, Blyborough & Willoughton

Areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved:

A start was made on the laying of sewers in the village of Laughton. Sewage from this village is to be pumped to Blyton Sewage Disposal Works which is to be improved.

WATER SUPPLIES

Number of houses supplied from public mains - in house	4,760
standpipe/outside tap	12
Number of houses supplied from private sources - in house	4
not in house	12
Number of houses with unsatisfactory supplies	11
Number of houses supplied therefrom	12

Swimming and Paddling Pools

	<u>Swimming Pools</u>	<u>Paddling Pools</u>
Number in operation	4	1
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	2	-

GENERAL

Offensive Trades:

Number of premises in the district	Nil
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Knacker's Yard:

Number licensed	1
Number of inspections made	10
Number of contraventions remedied	4

Office Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963:

Number of premises licensed	21
Number of inspections made	28
Number of defects found	2
Number of defects remedied	2

Disinfection and Disinfestation:

Rooms or premises disinfected	(a) Infectious disease other than tuberculosis	None
	(b) Tuberculosis	None
Number of premises subject to disinfestation		6

Refuse Collection and Disposal:

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	5,242
Frequency of collection	fortnightly
Type of receptacle used	plastic sacks

Disposal is by controlled tipping

Number of tips	1
Number of refuse collection vehicles	4
Estimated amount of refuse disposed of during the year on local authority tips -	
domestic (tons)	3,600
trade	none

Number of sites established under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, Section 18	1
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The Council makes special collection of bulky household refuse which is too large for normal collection on payment.

Details of Nuisance abated:

	<u>After informal intimation</u>	<u>After statutory notice</u>
Refuse	17	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	36	-
Drainage	72	-
Poultry	21	-
Dangerous premises	3	1
Miscellaneous nuisances	8	-
Total:	<u>157</u>	<u>1</u>

Rodent Control:

Number of rodent operatives employed -	Fulltime	1
	Part-time	1
Number of premises treated	(a) Dwelling-houses	175
	(b) Other premises	97

There are no serious reservoirs of rats in the district.

The service covers domestic and business premises only.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	48	91	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers premises) Building Sites	3	20	-	-
TOTAL:	51	111	4	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution was instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H. M. Inspector By H. M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventillation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	4	4	-	-	-
TOTAL:	8	8	-	-	-

Part V111 of the Act

Out-work

Details of out-work (Sections 133 and 134) carried on in the district

Number of out-workers in the district (Section 133)

4

Nature of work - Making wearing apparel, etc. (cleaning and washing)

Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises (Section 134)

Nil
